GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3027
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2002
COLLECTION OF SERVICE CHARGES BY TOBACCO BOARD
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board collects huge amounts to additional service charges and penalties for growing excess and unauthorized tobacco;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposals from the tobacco growers to create Growers Welfare Fund with the amount collected on the excess and unauthorised tobacco;

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government on the proposals; and

(d) the time by which the fund is likely to be set up ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) The Tobacco Board collects additional service charges and extra fees on the sale of excess and unauthorised Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco, as notified by Government from time to time.

(b) A proposal was received from the Tobacco Board for setting up a Growers` Welfare Fund to finance schemes for the benefit of the tobacco growers in the areas of cultivation, crop management, assistance in the event of losses etc.

(c) & (d) No decision has been taken on this proposal as these activities are already being undertaken by the Tobacco Board, which runs various extension and development schemes for the benefit of the growers using its own outlay. The funds generated through the levy of additional service charges on the excess and unauthorised production of tobacco also form part of this outlay.